

# USER news

AUTUMN 1993



## IT'S GOING TO BE OUT OF THIS WORLD

Acorn  
WORLD

93

SPONSORED BY  
BBC ACORN USER

Anyone with an interest in computers should really go to the Wembley Exhibition Centre between 29th-31st October. The reason? That's where we're staging the very first Acorn World Exhibition. Come along and we promise you a day out to remember. Naturally all the major Acorn hardware and software companies will be there displaying and demonstrating their latest products and a host of exciting new developments, but there's so much more. Let us give you a sneak preview of what Acorn are doing.

As soon as you enter the exhibition there's the opportunity to step inside the Acorn Gallery. Here you will find an exhibit showing just how quickly computer technology has advanced over the years and there's a chance to take a look into the future with displays on video conferencing, sound generation developments, information presentation and the amazing world of miniaturisation.

Once through this Gallery you'll find that each corner of the exhibition has its own particular theme, with quite literally something for everyone. On the Acorn publishing stand we show how Acorn computers are used in print production. From originating layouts and setting copy through to scanning, printing and collating - you can even watch the whole process happening.

Move on to the education stand and see how computers are helping schools today and could be helping the schools of the future. In this part of the exhibition you will find Superchoice - the specialists in activity breaks for children. They're bringing along an abseiling tower for our more energetic young visitors to try. They'll even show you, with the aid of their computer how the heartbeat accelerates during your leap and the speed of your heart's recovery time.



Take this copy of User News  
to Acorn World'93

**£1.00 OFF  
FAMILY TICKET**

**50P OFF  
ADULT TICKET.**

This offer cannot be used in conjunction with  
any other special entry ticket

In another area you'll find our theatre workshop. During the weekend there will be a whole host of different events happening here. Kodak will be demonstrating photo composition and showing the latest in converting film onto Photo CD. You'll find the BBC Acorn User Magazine here too, along with Psion and their products. There's also the opportunity to meet and pick the brains of some of the top people from the Science Museum. You'll be able to take advantage of their special tickets, available at the show, allowing one child free admission with every adult ticket to the Science Museum.

Finally there's one area which promises to be the noisiest. Buried in the hold of a crashed space ship you'll find all the latest and greatest games just waiting to be played. Need we say more? Only that just in case things aren't exciting enough this whole area is going to be lit by a stunning Acorn computer generated multi-coloured laser show!

Of course, this is just a little taste of what's going to be happening at Acorn World. We could go on to tell you about the face painting, the magic and the juggling displays but why not come along and see for yourselves.

**Ticket Cost**  
Adults £6, Children £4, Family £16 but you could take this copy of User News along to the show and take advantage of our special discount offer.

If you are unable for any reason to come to Acorn World, Please visit your local dealer to get hold of the product Directory, the revised Consumer brochure, the Acorn User Games Review (December issue), or any other information relating to Acorn computers.

Acorn

# bundles

## NEW BUNDLES FROM ACORN WITH LOTS MORE FOR EVERYBODY

Whatever you're looking for from your software Acorn has the answer with the launch of three exciting new bundles. From education and entertainment through to help for the small business, we've got it all wrapped up.

Let's start with the Action Pack, which includes Zool, the intergalactic ninja from the 'nth' dimension. There are also no less than four interactive demonstration games with spectacular graphics and sound effects that are packed into the Action Pack. All guarantee hours of entertainment in themselves and of course there are more than 200 other games titles available.

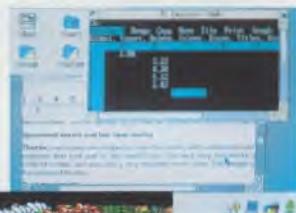
The Action Pack, however, lets you do much more than just play games. Also included are painting and drawing programs and a powerful, easy-to-use word processor with built in spelling checker to help produce anything from school project work to professional documents.

Next comes The Learning Curve, featuring a variety of 'Edutainment' titles specially developed to help children learn while they're having fun. Advance integrates word processing, spreadsheet, database and graphing applications making it perfect for a child's project or even household accounts, while a PC emulator bridges the gap between the home and office by allowing you to run PC software. There are 10 interactive demonstration programs including Rhapsody II, Scoredraw and VoxBox to create, play and revise musical scores, Topographer, turning drawn maps into 3D landscapes, and Edutainment titles including Darryl the Dragon and The Crystal Rain Forest.

That brings us to the third new pack. The Home Office contains everything the small business needs to create a truly professional image while helping you to manage the administration. A professional word processor with spelling checker, spreadsheet analysis, database management and graphing are just part of the Home Office

functions. Interactive demonstration software includes Prophet, a powerful accounts application and Almanac, an integrated personal organiser and address book. The PC emulator turns your Acorn computer into an IBM compatible PC and enables you to run DOS software. Combine the Home Office with an optional JP150 ink-jet printer and you have a low cost way of producing top quality documents.

The Action Pack is available with the A3010 for the amazing price of just £399 inc VAT. The Learning Curve is available with A3010 (2MB), A4000 or A5000, while the Home Office can be purchased with an A4000 or A5000.



## £299 CD-ROM REVOLUTION FROM MORLEY

A new CD-ROM drive designed specifically for the Acorn market has been released by the North East Acorn developer Morley Electronics. The drive is based on the latest Sony mechanism and is simple to install on any Acorn computer. The interface card which is included in the £299 price is simply plugged into the computer and the drive then attached. The rest is done for you, once the computer is switched back on you will be greeted by the CD drive icon on the icon bar.

Morley's Alistair Newton said 'We looked long and hard at the needs of education and the home user before designing the system, and we believe we have hit the target with both ease of use and price'.

The drive operates through Acorn's own CDFS and is fully Multisession and Photo CD ready. It will handle all RISC OS CD discs as well as Replay files and is able to access DOS based discs and run them through emulation such as Acorn's PC Emulator.

Newton went on to say "With more and more developers producing CD-ROM applications we knew it was imperative to offer the drive at a sensible price if we were to make it attractive to the average Acorn owner. At £299 including interface the drive is significantly cheaper than anything previously available and being based around a Sony mechanism we are not sacrificing quality for price".

The Revolution is available for A3000, A3010, A3020, A4000, A5000, A300, A400 and A540. Price £299 ex VAT.

Morley Electronics Ltd  
Tel (091) 257 6355  
Fax (091) 257 6373



### Transforming Acorn Games

GamesWare is committed to bring the best games to owners of Acorn computers. Already the company which concentrates exclusively on the Acorn market has an impressive product line-up, including.

- Xenon 2
- James Pond 2 - Robocod
- F.R.E.D
- Ixion
- Cycloids

and to help you gain full control over your favourite games there is the PowerPad, a six button console style control pad that simply plugs into the printer port of all Acorn 32-bit computers. Or if you want to find all the cheats and level codes or gain extra lives look out for Games Wizard.

"Simon the Sorcerer" coming soon



This magical graphical adventure game has been taking the PC world by storm and is due to be available for the Archimedes by Christmas '93. Superb graphics have been created by a team of artists, taking over 40 man months. Being the first truly graphical adventure game for the Archimedes and with Disney-like animation "Simon the Sorcerer" represents an important landmark in Acorn games. To mark this significant event GamesWare will be making a very special offer to customers reserving one of the first copies.

Please send me details of the "Simon the Sorcerer" offer and the GamesWare range.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Send to GamesWare  
Unit 26  
The Barletts  
Hamble  
Hampshire  
SO3 5RP



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### ACORN LAUNCHES NEWER, FASTER A5000S

The new Acorn A5000 computers have arrived with the ability not only to run faster than their predecessors but also boasting improved memory expansion and a lower price.

Now running at 33MHz the new model A5000's performance is improved by up to a third on the originals' 25MHz. In fact, in terms of measured performance the new A5000 is faster than a typical 33MHz 486 DX PC. At the heart of the system an ARM3 microprocessor allows operation at this new 33MHz clock speed to be smooth and trouble free. In addition design changes have allowed 8MB RAM upgrades to be fitted with the minimum of fuss and inconvenience.

So how much will you have to pay for your new Acorn computers? Surprisingly improvements made during the redesign have meant whilst performance has risen, prices have moved in the opposite direction. Available in four configurations the top of the range 4MB/160MB model is £1699 inc VAT while a 2MB/80MB model is just £1499 inc VAT.

Two network models are also available. These offer connectivity between Acorn's 8 and 32 bit machines, proprietary network, and industry networks via Econet and Ethernet.

### ACORN RELEASES FLOATING POINT ACCELERATOR

Acorn are now offering A540 and A5000 series computer users and those with R260 UNIX workstations an arithmetic co-processor, the FPA10 for greatly improved performance.

This Floating Point Accelerator chip fits into a purpose built socket on the A5000 motherboard and into a processor card on the A540 and will increase the speed of spreadsheets, CAD, image analysis, modelling and vector packages.

In keeping with ARM design philosophy, performance is increased by up to a factor of 50, while low power use is maintained. The FPA10 dissipates only 250mW compared with the 1-3 watts from co-processors used on other manufacturer's platforms.

The FPA10 is available from your Acorn dealer for £99 (ex VAT). A 62 page technical information booklet is also available from Vector Services, 13 Denington Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2LR for £10 (including post and packing).



# questionnaire

## NEW FROM MINERVA

The Prime series is a range of programs designed for all ages. The series includes PrimeArt, PrimeWord, PrimeMover and PrimeSolver and features a unique configurable button bar. This makes them easy to use for younger users or to include all the features for more advanced users.

PrimeMover is a real-time animation program which allows you to create your own animated films. Sprites can be animated and moved about on the screen in a highly controlled manner, using a very simple user interface.

How would you describe a 'Heath Robinson' style interactive, fun, simulation program which uses real life mechanics like ropes, pulleys and buckets etc. Minerva call it PrimeSolver. This program is tremendous fun whilst being invaluable for education.



### PrimeSolver

Another new product is Keyboard Trainer a new and exciting way to learn to play a MIDI keyboard. Keyboard Trainer, contains over 60 lessons which include many tunes and some fun games to make the practising of scales etc. interesting. This package is great value for money as it represents approximately one year of piano lessons!

Minerva produce a wide range of software for home, business and education including the popular Home Accounts, ideal for recording and keeping track of your expenditure and bank accounts. Ancestry for the geneologist in the family and the LinkWord Language series. Send or phone for their full colour catalogue.

**STOP PRESS!** – For a limited period Minerva are offering DeskTop Office their integrated suite of database, word-processor, spreadsheet, graphs and communications for only £49.95! (rrp £93.94) You'll find DeskTop Office invaluable for writing your letters, calculating and charting your budget, recording names & addresses and even printing out labels for your Christmas cards! Order your copy now direct from Minerva on 0392 437756.

We would appreciate you completing this questionnaire in order to help us in our constant effort to bring you the best computer products.

**1** Which type(s) of computer do you or your family own?

- |              |                          |             |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| BBC B/Master | <input type="checkbox"/> | Unix series | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A300 series  | <input type="checkbox"/> | A540        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A400 series  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pocket Book | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A5000        | <input type="checkbox"/> | PC-286      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A3000        | <input type="checkbox"/> | PC-386      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A3010        | <input type="checkbox"/> | PC-486      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A3020        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Amiga       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A4000        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Apple Mac   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**2** How old is your Acorn computer? If you own more than one, please just give the age of your newest Acorn computer).

- |                |                          |              |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0-6 months     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2-4 years    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6mths - 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> | Over 4 years | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1-2 years      | <input type="checkbox"/> |              |                          |

**3** Which of the following areas do you mainly use this computer for?

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Games/Education     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Word processing/DTP | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Graphics work       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Business work       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**4** Which of the following do you have?

- |              |                          |                 |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Hard Disc    | <input type="checkbox"/> | PC Card         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CD ROM Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> | Modem           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scanner      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Video Digitiser | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Printer      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Genlock         | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**5** How many people in your household use the computer?

**6** Did the computer system you bought come with a training cassette?

Yes  No

If so: Did you use this training cassette?

Yes  No

How useful did you find this cassette?

Very  Not very

Quite  Not At All

**7** Do you think Acorn should include a training cassette with each computer sold?

Yes  No

**8** Overall how satisfied have you been with the Acorn computer(s) you own?

Very  Not at all

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

**9** Would you buy a computer from Acorn again?

Yes  No

**10** In which of the following categories would you say your household fits?

One adult

One adult + one or more children (0-18)

Two adults

Two adults + one or more children (0-18)

More than two adults

More than two adults + one or more children (0-18)

Just fill in your name and address in the space below and send it together with your completed questionnaire to:

Acorn Direct  
 13 Denington Road  
 Wellingborough  
 Northants NN8 2RL

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....



# special offer

## A POCKET BOOK OFFER THAT WON'T STRETCH YOUR POCKET

**W**ith our latest special offer, there's never been a better time to extend the capabilities and range of your Acorn system. Just look what you get, while saving over £200! First there's the famous Acorn Pocket Book, worth £250, which with Acorn Schedule (a diary personal organiser and timetable), makes a very powerful and portable system. We're

also including an Acorn A-link and mains adaptor so anything on your Pocket Book can easily be transferred onto your Acorn computer. The Acorn Advance package gives your Archimedes advanced word processing, database, spreadsheets and graphing facilities. And one last thing - we're also giving you one year's free hot line technical support for the Pocket Book. All

for the ridiculously low price of £249.95 inc VAT. You may order this special pack using the form attached.



## LIQUID CRYSTAL MOUSE MAT

This isn't just a rather stylish Acorn mouse mat it's real hot stuff.

Just rest your hand on the mat for a few moments and you'll find a heat induced print left - you really can create all kinds of whacky impressions!

And at only £9.99 inc p&p you won't have to put your hand too deep into your pocket to afford this one - but this is a limited offer.



Please send me ..... Advance with Pocket Book Pack at £249.95 (including VAT + p&p) Total £.....

Please send me ..... the Liquid Crystal Mouse Mat at £9.99 (including VAT + p&p) Total £.....

I enclose cheque/PO (made payable to Acorn Direct) for a total of £..... enter amount

Please debit my Access/Visa card

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Expiry date: □ □ □ □ Amount £.....

Signature: .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Tel:.....

Return this form to: Acorn Direct Mail Order, 13 Denington Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2RL. Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to Acorn Direct.

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

forthcoming dealer events

**28th October 1993**  
West Wiltshire Micros - 0225 762759  
White Hart Yard, Trowbridge  
2pm - 7.30pm

**4th November 1993**  
West Wiltshire Micros - 0793 511560  
25 Eastcott Hill, Swindon  
2pm - 7pm

**7th November 1993**  
Microtest Ltd - 0208 73171  
The Ocean Suite  
Cornwall Colosseum, St Austell  
10am - 4pm

**9th November 1993**  
Compucon  
0703 894714  
141 Hampton Lane  
Blackfield, Nr Southampton  
2pm - 8pm

**11th November 1993**  
LG Computer Services - 0703 771399  
292 Shirley Road  
Shirley, Southampton  
2pm - 7.30pm

**13th November 1993**  
Norwich Computer Services  
0603 766592  
Colman Middle School  
Norwich  
10am - 4pm

**13th November 1993**  
Alsystems - 0420 561111  
Windmill Hotel  
Fourmarks, Hants  
10am - 4pm

**13th November 1993**  
The Computer Store  
0267 221661  
Dolphin Hotel  
Whitewalls, Swansea

**14th November 1993**  
The Computer Store - 0267 221661  
Cardiff Moathouse  
Circleway East, Llanedeyrn  
Cardiff

**14th November 1993**  
Micro Power - 0532 458800  
Parkway Hotel  
Otley Road, Leeds

**14th November 1993**  
Micro Centre 0705 697802  
Digital Services 0705 324934  
Weserve 0705 647000  
Innlodge, Portsmouth  
10am - 4pm

**17th November 1993**  
Microwise - 0734 591816  
21 Duke Street  
Reading, Berks

**18th November 1993**  
Pulse Computing - 0202 476888  
30 Bridge Street  
Christchurch, Dorset  
10am - 4pm

**20th November 1993**  
Filleuls - 0481 721231  
Filleuls, Beau Sejour  
Guernsey  
10am - 6pm

**21st November 1993**  
MAV 0734 311177  
Alsystems 0734 503330  
The Calcot Hotel  
98 Bath Road, Reading  
10am - 4pm

**23rd November 1993**  
Calcraft - 09323 42137  
96 High Street  
Byfleet, Surrey  
4pm - 8pm

**24th November 1993**  
The Computer Place - 0722 414416  
Red Lion Hotel  
Salisbury  
3.30pm - 8pm

**25th November 1993**  
Taunton Micro Centre - 0823 336118  
Unit 35  
Old Market Centre, Taunton

**2nd December 1993**  
Personal Computing  
0935 34061  
70 Middle Street  
Yeovil, Somerset  
10am - 4pm

NB: Please contact the dealer for full information and to confirm details - the events may be cancelled or rearranged. Check before you have a wasted journey. This information is correct at time of printing. E&OE



**QUALITY COLOUR  
PRINTING AT AN  
AFFORDABLE PRICE**



The BJC-600 and Turbo Driver  
The BJC-600 is a new A4 colour inkjet printer from Canon which Computer Concepts intend to sell with their ultra fast TurboDriver printer drivers for the first time at the Acorn World Show.

The print quality is superb because of the 360dpi print resolution (that's 40% more dots per inch than a 300dpi printer) and the use of four separate colour ink cartridges. Ink cartridges can be replaced separately, saving ink and money. The special 'fast dry' inks help prevent smudging on plain paper and the use of plain paper ensures low running costs. The BJC-600 has a built-in 80 page sheetfeeder and comes with a one year warranty.

Computer Concepts range of TurboDrivers are setting the standard for printer drivers in the Acorn market. Tests show they are up to 10 times faster than the standard Acorn drivers and they also offer much greater control over the printed output. Other TurboDriver features include background printing, on-screen feedback (eg paper or ink out), grey component replacement and black generation algorithms to ensure accurate colour reproduction and good greyscales.

The package comes with the RISC OS 3 TurboDriver, a user guide, colour documentation guide, all necessary cables, sample inkjet transparencies. PC drivers. RISC OS 3.1 is required and 4 MBytes recommended.

RRP: £529 + £10 carriage + VAT  
(£633.32 inc.) Computer Concepts  
Tel. 0442 63933

# RISC user

The magazine for users of Acorn RISC Computers

**ONLY  
£19.90 (UK)  
FOR A  
COMPLETE YEAR**



RISC User is an excellent magazine, available only on subscription and sent directly to your home.

It keeps you up to date on the Acorn marketplace with news, reviews, help, advice as well as in depth articles and programs.

RISC User is just right for the serious Acorn user. There is no wasted space talking about other computers. And although it keeps you up to date on new game releases, RISC User is not a games magazine. It is ideal for the home user keen to learn more about their computer and is also very popular in education.

**Subscribe Now**

Cheques and credit cards welcome  
Phone 0727 840303 or write to:  
RISC User, 117 Hatfield Road, St Albans,  
Herts. AL1 4JS

**SPECIAL OFFER**

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- While Stocks Last

**FREE Pipedream 3  
Worth £92 RRP inc VAT**

Pipedream 3 is a superb integrated package. It includes an excellent and very powerful spreadsheet, a wordprocessor with built in spelling checker and a complete database.



An  
Ideal  
Christmas  
Present  
**FREE**

## WHO MADE IT FIRST PAST THE CHEQUERED FLAG?

If you saw the Spring edition of Acorn User News you'll probably remember us telling you about the Acorn Turbo challenge. Well, 6 regional winners arrived at Lotus headquarters to battle it out for the all expenses paid trip to the Italian Grand Prix,

and a chance to drive the S4 Esprit round the test track. The final winner was Matthew Goodwin aged 13, from Basingstoke who not only had a grand stand seat at the Monza circuit, but also special access to the Team Lotus pits.

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